



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/544,084	04/06/2000	Asgeir Saebo	CONLNCO-04286	7973

23535 7590 07/23/2002
MEDLEN & CARROLL, LLP
101 HOWARD STREET
SUITE 350
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

EXAMINER	
WANG, SHENGJUN	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1617
DATE MAILED: 07/23/2002
14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)
	09/544,084	SAEBO ET AL.
	Examiner Shengjun Wang	Art Unit 1617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears in the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt of applicants' response submitted May 9, 2002 is acknowledged.

Double Patenting Rejections

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-30 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 9-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,833 in view of Cook et al. (U.S. 5,760,082) for reasons set forth in the prior office action.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook et al. (U.S. Patent 5,760,082 of record) in view of Cain et al. (WO 97/18320, IDS 35) and Baltes et al.

(U.S. Patent 3,162,658, of record), and in further view of Nilsen et al. (U.S. Patent 5,885,594, IDS 26) for reasons set forth in the prior office action.

Response to the Arguments

Applicants' remarks submitted May 9, 2002 have been fully considered, but are not persuasive for reasons discussed below.

5. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the suggestions or motivation are found in both the references and in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. Particularly, Cook teaches the usefulness of CLA in food products wherein the food product may contain vitamins, ethanol is a well-known ingredient in food product, it is therefore obvious to blend CLA in food products including those containing ethanol or vitamin E. The examiner fails to understand what the motivation or reasons needed to motivate one of ordinary skill to employ an ingredient in food product other than the fact that the ingredient is known to be useful as a food ingredient. All CLA, vitamin E, or ethanol are known to be useful as food ingredients, the employment of these materials in food is such obvious. If applicants intend to claim some benefit of the combination of these materials that are unexpected and unobvious over prior art, applicants should bring it forward. The examiner fails to see any of such benefits.

The examiner restated that Baltes reference does not expressly limited to produce CLA for coating. Nowhere in Baltes reference state that the method disclosed therein only suitable for producing CLA solely for coating application. Note question under 35 U.S.C. 103 is not merely what reference expressly teach, but what they would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made; all disclosures of prior art, including unpreferred embodiments, must considered. In re Lamberti and Konort (CCPA), 192 USPQ 278.

In fact Baltes state “The invention relates to a process for substantially complete catalytic conversion of compounds of unconjugated polyethenoid acid into compounds of conjugated enthenoid acid.” (column 1, lines 13-16). “ It will be appreciated from the above that this invention is not limited to the materials, steps, conditions and other details specifically described above and can be carried out with various modification. Thus, it will be understood that the process of this invention is broadly applicable to **any unconjugated polyethenoid acid compounds and products containing them.**” (column 8, lines 20-50). In view of all the references cited, it become obvious to take a proper linoleic acid esters and treat the esters with alkali alcoholate according Baltes to obtain a CLA and incorporate the CLA in a food product.

6. Applicants assert that the references do not teach all of the elements of the claims, particularly, the cited references do not teach expressly the employment of combination of CLA and alcohol. The assertion is not persuasive. As stated above, all CLA, vitamin E, and alcohol are known to be useful as food ingredients, the employment of these materials in food is such obvious, absent evidence to the contrary.

7. Applicants assert that the cited references provide no reasonable expectation of success, largely because Baltes references narrowly teaches an industrial CLA and is not applicable to the

instant invention. The assertion is improper. In fact, as discussed above, Baltes references teach a general process for isomerization of unconjugated polyunsaturated fatty acid to conjugated polyunsaturated fatty acid. In view of Baltes reference and the other cited references, one of ordinary skill in the art would have reasonably expected that the isomerization method disclosed by Baltes is applicable for eatable composition containing CLA.

Regarding the remarks about Declaration of Dr. Asgeir Sæbo, the examiner restated that the declaration of Dr. Asgeir Sæbo have been fully considered and was found not persuasive for reasons stated in the prior office action. Applicants is in error in stating the examiner does not “providing substantial contrary evidence” The examiner expressly cites the disclose of Baltes references, column 1, lines 13-16, and column 8, lines 20-68, wherein a broad teaching is disclosed, which is contrary to the declaration of Dr. Asgeir Sæbo. Nowhere in Baltes references states the method is solely for making CLA composition for coating and nowhere in Baltes reference states only the starting material disclosed in the example could be used as the starting materials. Note question under 35 U.S.C. 103 is not merely what reference expressly teach, but what they would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made; all disclosures of prior art, including unpreferred embodiments, must considered. In re Lamberti and Konort (CCPA), 192 USPQ 278.

8. Nothing unobvious is seen in the claimed invention.
9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

Art Unit: 1617

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shengjun Wang, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-4554. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minna Moezie, J.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4612. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4556.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

Examiner



Shengjun Wang

July 18, 2002

RUSSELL TRAVERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1200